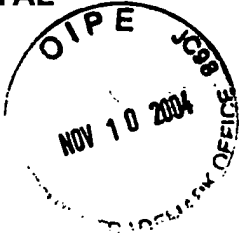


<p align="center">REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</p> <p>Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> 	Application Number: 09/986,622	Confirmation Number: 5933
	Filing Date: November 9, 2001	
	First Named Inventor: Giacomo Stefano ROBA	
	Group Art Unit: 1731	
	Examiner: John M. Hoffmann	
	Attorney Docket Number: 05788.0189	
Attorney Customer Number: 22,852		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114: Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, application must request non-entry of such amendment.

- a. ☒ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on [Date] _____.
- ii. ☒ Other Amendment After Final Under 35 U.S.C. § 1.116 filed September 28, 2004
- b. ☐ Enclosed:
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- iv. ☐ Other _____

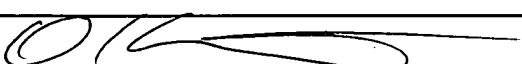
2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

- a. ☒ The filing fee is calculated as follows:
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$790.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) | 11/12/2004 EABUBAK1 00000066 09986622 | |
| ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition for extension of time for (Two Months) \$430.00 | 01 FC:1801 | 790.00 0P |
| iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$1,220.00 enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required

Name: D. Kent Stier	Reg. No.: 50,640
Signature: 	Date: November 10, 2004

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: [Date]

Name: [Text]
Signature: _____ Date: _____